

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claims 15-18 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process such as kneading other plastic compounds.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 15-18 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see remarks, filed 09/08/2008, with respect to claims 1 and 2 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC 112 rejection of claims 1 and 2 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 2, and 12-14 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Although prior art teaches the manufacture of epoxy resin via a kneading process there is no suggestion of simultaneously introducing outside air through the supply orifice and the discharge orifice. There are vented prior art kneaders but no prior art of record demonstrates the use of the discharge orifice and supply orifice to introduce outside air.

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5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William I. Solomon on 24 December 2008. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 15-18 have been cancelled.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID N. BROWN II whose telephone number is (571)270-5497. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30a-5:00p EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Del Sole can be reached on (571)-272-1130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DAVID N. BROWN II/
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Joseph S. Del Sole/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791